

SPORTS VS CHURCH

ARE THEY IN OPPOSITION? AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING MISSING CHURCH FOR GAMES?

JOSHUA 1:8

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

1 PETER 4:10

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-2

“These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, so that you may enjoy long life.”



But Lord, you gifted my kid!

WHEN I WAS A KID, WE DIDN'T PLAY SPORTS ON SUNDAYS. THAT WAS THE ONE DAY OF THE WEEK THAT EVERYTHING SHUT DOWN AND MANY FAMILIES WENT TO CHURCH, BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE TODAY. IF YOUR CHILD SHOWS SIGNS OF A “GOD-GIVEN” TALENT THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE PLAYED AT A HIGHER LEVEL, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WILL BE MISSING MANY CHURCH SERVICES. IN MOST CASES, TRAVEL TEAMS ARE NECESSARY TO PLAY ON IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHILD TO DEVELOP TO THE STANDARD OF COLLEGE OR A PROFESSIONAL LEVEL – AND GAMES ARE ON SUNDAYS! THIS IS A GROWING CONCERN AMONG CHRISTIAN FAMILIES RAISING YOUNG CHILDREN THAT PLAY SPORTS. FAMILIES ARE FACED WITH THE DECISION TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING IN THE SPORT, OR GIVE IT UP AND GO TO CHURCH.





COACHING PERSPECTIVE

As a coach, recruiting on Sunday mornings, I always felt guilty. I felt like I was contributing to the spiritual decline among the youth and not improving it. But there are things a coach can do to feed spiritual blessings into their player's lives:

- Plan pre-game devotionals on Sundays. You can lead it, a player can lead it, or your team can access a devotion on our COTD APP that will do the work for you.
- Pre-game prayer is an amazing team bonding experience for players. It can be optional, but God has His way of growing those prayer circles over time.
- Allow one Sunday off a month for players to go with their families to church.
- Allow players to go to church camps one week out of the summer.

God has placed coaches in a leadership position over players and we have a lot of control and influence. We can bring Jesus to our team if we really want to...

Is it possible to do both?

THIS IS THE EXACT REASON CHURCH ON THE DIRT WAS FORMED - TO BRING CHURCH TO PLAYERS AND FAMILIES THAT ARE PURSUING THEIR SPORT AND MISSING OUT ON CHURCH SERVICES ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. WE AS PARENTS SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE INVOLVED WITH OUR LOCAL CHURCH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT WHEN WE CANNOT MAKE IT - FIND OTHER RESOURCES TO FEED YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN A PORTION OF GOD'S WORD. YOU CAN DEFINITELY RAISE CHILDREN THAT FEAR THE LORD AND PLAY SPORTS AT A HIGH LEVEL - IT JUST REQUIRES PRIORITY, PLANNING, DISCIPLINE, AND COMMITTED EFFORT. DURING THOSE EARLY MORNING WEEKEND DRIVES TO GAMES AND COMPETITIONS, FIND CHRISTIAN PODCASTS OR YOUTUBE VIDEO SERMONS THAT RELATE TO ATHLETES AND THE COMMON PROBLEMS THE YOUTH ARE FACING TODAY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO PICK THE MESSAGE THAT YOUR CHILDREN CAN RELATE TO OR THEY WILL SIMPLY TUNE IT OUT. FIND ROLE MODELS THAT ARE MAKING LIFE CHOICES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE WILL OF GOD - NOT JUST ROLE MODELS BASED ON THEIR ATHLETIC ABILITIES. THERE ARE MANY HIGH PROFILE ATHLETES THAT LOVE JESUS AND ARE USING THEIR PLATFORM TO INFLUENCE YOUNG PLAYERS TO FOLLOW HIM - SEEK THEM OUT!

